

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01249 171250Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 OPR-02 SY-05 PM-05
NSC-05 SS-15 /078 W
-----024782 180006Z /65

R 171040Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1249

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT:STUDENT VIOLENCE ON CAMPUSES

1. SUMMARY.VIOLENCE BROKE OUT BETWEEN RIVAL STUDENT
POLITICAL GROUPS AT UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN COLOMBO ON MARCH
16. SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE INJURED; ONE NON-STUDENT DIED OF
WOUNDS RECEIVED FROM BOMB BLAST.TWO CAMPUS PRESIDENTS
HAVE BEEN REPLACED. CAMPUSES ARE QUIET,BUT SITUATION REMAINS
TENSE AND VOLATILE. END SUMMARY.

2. UNIVERSITY SCENE HAS BEEN CHAOTIC OVER PAST FEW SDAYS.
PERADENIYA CAMPUS HAD BEEN CLOSED ON MARCH 9 BECAUSE OF
STUDENT BOYCOTT PROTESTING INTERDICTION OF A LECTURER,SUSPEN-
SION OF A STUDENT, AND REMOVAL OF STANDARDIZATION.
ON MARCH 15, STUDENTS AT FOUR OTHER CAMPUSES HELD A ONE DAY
BOYCOTT SUPPORTING PERADENIYA STUDENTS' ACTIONS AND PROTESTING
EARLY CLOSURE OF PERADENIYA CAMPUS. BOYCOTT WAS ONLY
PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL.LEFTIST (ULF) STUDENTS PARTICIPATED;
UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP) STUDENTS DID NOT.THERE
WERE NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE.

3. ON FOLLOWING DAY,UNP STUDENTS, REPORTEDLY WITH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COLOMB 01249 171250Z

OUTSIDE HELP,ATTACKED ULF STUDENTS AT VIDYALANKARA AND
THE AESTHETIC STUDIES INSTITUTE OF COLOMBO CAMPUS. UNP'ERS
REPORTEDLY USED BOTTLES,STONES, SWORDS,AND BOMBS,AND
THERE WERE SEVERAL MELEES. WHEN BOMB EXPLODED AT
VIDYALANKARA,POLICE WERE SENT ONTO CAMPUS UNARMED.
ONE STUDENT AND AN OUTSIDER HAD BEEN INJURED IN BOMB
EXPLOSION. LATTER DIED AT A HOSPITAL.

4. GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED CLASSES AT VIDYALANKARA FOR ONE DAY, MARCH 17, BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO CLOSE CAMPUS. PRESIDENTS OF VIDYALANKARA AND COLOMBO CAMPUSES HAVE BEEN REPLACED. CLASSES ARE BEING HELD AT OTHER CAMPUSES BUT VICE-CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY CONSIDERS SITUATION VOLATILE.

5. COMMENT. CAMPUS POLITICS WAS FACTOR LEADING TO VIOLENCE AT VIDYALANKARA WHERE UNP AND UNLF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS OVER FORMATION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL. RECENT ELECTIONS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL GAVE ULF SEVEN PLACES, UNP SIX. ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE TO NOMINATE FOUR MORE MEMBERS ONCE COUNCIL FORMED. PARTIES COULD NOT AGREE, EACH WANTING TO NOMINATE ITS OWN MEMBERS. WHEN AUTHORITIES DELAYED FORMING COUNCIL, ULF WENT AHEAD AND FORMED IT OVER UNP OBJECTION.
WRIGGINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB01249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0215
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780356/aaaabvev.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c49c17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295517
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT VIOLENCE ON CAMPUSES
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c49c17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014